

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-05-03

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday,  
July 11, 2003

Effective            12:01 A.M. Saturday, July 12, 2003  
Date:

Expiration Date: December 31, 2003  
Unless superseded by subsequent  
Emergency Order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This Emergency Order increases the daily bag and possession limit for king salmon over 20 inches in total length to three (3) per day, effective 12:01 A.M. Saturday July 12, 2003. The areas affected by this emergency order are portions of the Chena and Salcha Rivers open to salmon fishing, and in the Tanana River within a 1/2 mile radius of the mouths of the Chena and Salcha rivers.

In the remainder of the Tanana River drainage, king salmon bag and possession limits are unchanged.

### **REGULATION:**

The provisions contained in 5 AAC 70.022(d) (1)(A) are superceded by 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A). Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective:

In all waters of the Chena and Salcha Rivers open to salmon fishing and in the Tanana River within a ½ mile radius of the mouths of the Chena and Salcha Rivers, the daily bag and possession limit for king salmon is (3) fish, greater than 20 inches total length.

Kevin C. Duffy  
Commissioner

by delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Doxey  
Lower Tanana River Drainage  
Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The inseason data collected during June and early July in the Lower Yukon River indicated that the king salmon run was stronger than expected.

Recent assessments of the Tanana River component of the Yukon River king salmon run indicate considerable run strength. As of Friday morning, July 11, cumulative king salmon escapement in the Salcha River has exceeded the biological escapement goal (BEG) upper boundary of 6,500. The escapement in the Chena River has exceeded the midpoint of the BEG (4,250) and is expected to exceed the upper boundary of the BEG (5,700) by Saturday July 12.

Based on previous year's data, current escapements for both rivers are at about 50% of the final escapement. Escapements as of 8 A.M. Friday, July 11, were 4,484 fish for the Chena River and 6,867 fish for the Salcha River. Strong passage rates (over 1,000/day) are anticipated to continue for the next several days.

The Tanana River drainage king salmon sport fisheries are managed under the provisions set forth in 5 AAC 70.060 (Chinook Salmon Sport Harvest Management Plan) using in-season run abundance and escapement information from the Tanana River and its major king salmon spawning tributaries, the Chena and Salcha rivers. The plan states that the fisheries will be managed to achieve escapements in the Salcha and Chena rivers that fall within the BEG ranges.

Projected escapements based on current run strength indicate that the king salmon stocks in the Chena and Salcha rivers can support an increased sport harvest during the remainder of the run.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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